



PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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2004 FARM PRODUCTION EXPENDITURES

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 25, 2005—Washington's total farm production expenditures were up 4.8 percent in 2004, to \$5.22 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The average cost of running a farming operation last year in Washington State was \$149,143; 6.3 percent higher than in 2003. The average expenditures for a Washington farm were almost 50 percent higher than the national average.

Labor and Farm Services accounted for the largest percentage of costs for Washington operations at 23 percent and 17 percent respectively, while feed came in a distant third at 8.2 percent.

Many Washington farmers are feeling the burden of higher fuel costs due to the 24.8 percent rise in fuel expenses for the year, in addition to the 19.9 percent rise in fertilizer costs, including application.

In 2004, U.S. agricultural expenses were up 5.1 percent from 2003 to \$210.7 billion. The rise in cost can be traced to the high cost of fuels, fertilizers, and labor. However, slightly lower cost for feed, agricultural chemicals, and lower livestock/poultry expenses in Washington has provided some relief to local farmers.

These results are based on Washington farmers' and ranchers' data who participated in the Agricultural Resource Management Study (ARMS) conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Producers were contacted in February through April to collect 2004 farm and ranch expenses. This is the first state level information published for Washington from the Agricultural Resource Management Study.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/farm_exp.pdf

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